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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/929,797 | 08/14/2001 | Akinori Ohsako | JP920000203US1 | 2556 |

7590 07/13/2005

IBM CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPT.
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EXAMINER

LE, MIRANDA

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
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2167

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/929,797

Applicant(s)

OHSAKO, AKINORI

Examiner

Miranda Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,8,9,14 and 17-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,8,9,14 and 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed 04/11/2005.
2. Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 14, 17-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 9, 14 are independent claims. In the Amendment, claims 1, 5, 9, 14 have been amended, claims 2-4, 6-7, 10-13, 15-16 have been cancelled. This action is made Final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 5, 8, 9, 18, 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dimino et al. (US Patent No. 6,199,047).

Dimino anticipated independent claims 5, 9 by the following:

As per claim 5, Dimino teaches an expenditure management system for managing expenditure for an automatic transfer service of rates comprising:

a detail data for storing means (i.e. rating database 10 and customer database 140, Fig. 1) for storing detail data about rates which means classifies data for one or more transfer key (i.e. billing telephone number, col. 47, line 65) in said detail data into amount subject to consumption tax and nontaxable amount (col. 3, lines 6-33);

journalizing means (i.e. rating engine 30, Fig. 1) for journalizing said data detail (col. 8, lines 9-48);

wherein said detail data storage means classifies (i.e. a usage type classifies the usage event upon which the rating engine 30 will rate, col. 8, lines 39-40) said detail data into data for each transfer key (i.e. billing telephone number, col. 47, line 65), data about a total amount of main body that does not include consumption tax, and data about consumption tax and storing (col. 8, lines 29-48, col. 3, lines 6-33, col. 47, line 62 to col. 48, line 29);

wherein said journalizing means (i.e. rating engine 30, Fig. 1) collates master data prepared for collation with said detail data (i.e. a call detail record, Fig. 1A, col. 7, lines 3-4) according to the contents of journalizing with data necessary for the journalizing within said detail data and performs journalizing, and wherein said journalizing means collates master data about said total amount of main body stored in said detail data storing means and data about said consumption tax with master data (i.e. rating database 10 and customer database 140, Fig. 1) corresponding to data about said total amount of main body, thereby journalizing for appropriation and write-off of expenditures (col. 8, lines 9-48, col. 7, lines 1-29, col. 3, lines 6-33).

As per claim 8, Dimino teaches wherein said journalizing means data for each said transfer key (i.e. billing telephone number, col. 47, line 65) stored in each said detail data storing means with master data corresponding to data for said transfer key, thereby journalizing for transfer (col. 47, line 62 to col. 48, line 29).

As per claim 9, Dimino teaches a method for managing expenditure for an automatic transfer service of rates comprising the step of:

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acquiring detail data (i.e. a call detail record, Fig. 1A, col. 7, lines 3-4) about said rates (col. 7, lines 1-29);

converting (i.e. translates the data block, e.g. the call detail, and maps the data block to a tag value set, col. 7, lines 11-12) said acquired detail data into a unified data format (col. 7, lines 1-62, col. 8, lines 29-48);

and further comprising after the step of classifying the acquired detail data into data (i.e. toll calls, international calls, operator service calls, col. 8, lines 40-42.) for each of one or more transfer keys (i.e. billing telephone number, col. 47, line 65), said data being a total amount of main body that does not includes consumption tax, and data comprising total consumption tax (col. 47, line 62 to col. 48, line 29, col. 8, lines 29-48);

creating a plurality of master data (i.e. toll calls, international calls, operator service calls, col. 8, lines 40-42) according to contents of journalizing, wherein the master data is used for journalizing on the basis of collation with said detail data (col. 47, line 62 to col. 48, line 29, col. 8, lines 29-48);

said master data being created using the step of:

creating a first master data (i.e. rate providers, usage type, cases, calendars, rate groups, rate tables ..., col. 29, lines 10-19) that manages a total amount of main body that does not include consumption tax within the rates in said detail data; and

creating a second master data (i.e. information from customer database 140, Fig. 1) that manages an amount for each transfer key (i.e. billing telephone number, col. 47, line 65) in said detail data;

wherein the step of creating journal data further comprises the step of:

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collating said detail data with said first master data (i.e. rate providers, usage type, cases, calendars, rate groups, rate tables ..., col. 29, lines 10-19) to create journal data for appropriation and write-off expenditures (col. 8, lines 29-48); and

collating said detail data with said second master (i.e. information from customer database 140, Fig. 1) data to create journal data (i.e. billing telephone number, col. 47, line 65) for transfer (col. 8, lines 29-48); and

collating said detail data with said master data and creating multiple kind of journal data (i.e. toll calls, international calls, operator service calls, col. 8, lines 40-42) according to contents of processing in the expenditure management.

As per claim 18, Dimino teaches a computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing the expenditure management system for managing expenditure for an automatic transfer service of rates (i.e. rate providers, usage type, cases, calendars, rate groups, rate tables ..., col. 29, lines 10-19), the computer readable program code means in said computer program product comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the function of claim 5 (col. 8, lines 29-48).

As to claims 19, 20, Dimino teaches a program storage device readable by machine, tangible embodying a program of instruction executable by the machine to perform method steps for causing expenditure management for an automatic transfer service of rates (i.e. rate providers, usage type, cases, calendars, rate groups, rate tables ..., col. 29, lines 10-19), the computer readable program code means in said article of

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manufacture comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the steps of claim 9 (col. 8, lines 29-48).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1, 14, 17, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dimino et al. (US Patent No. 6,199,047) in view of Albal et al. (US Patent No. 6,668,046).

As per claim 1, Dimino teaches an expenditure management system for managing expenditure for an automatic transfer service of rates comprising:

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a detail data input (i.e. a call detail record, Fig. 1A, col. 7, lines 3-4) for inputting detail data about said rates (col. 7, lines 1-29);

a master database (i.e. rating database 10 and customer database 140, Fig. 1) for storing master data used for journalizing on the basis of collation with said detail data (col. 3, lines 6-33);

wherein said master database for storing master data comprises:

a first master database (i.e. rating database 10, Fig. 1) that manages a total amount of main body that does not include consumption tax within the rates in said detail data (i.e. rate providers, usage type, cases, calendars, rate groups, rate tables ..., col. 29, lines 10-19), which is used for appropriation and write-off of expenditures as processing in the expenditure management (col. 3, lines 6-33);

a second master database (i.e. customer database 140, Fig. 1) that manages an amount for each transfer key (i.e. billing telephone number, col. 47, line 65) in said detail data, which is used for transfer as processing in the expenditure management (col. 3, lines 6-33, col. 47, line 62 to col. 48, line 29);

a data format conversion section that converts (i.e. translates the data block, e.g. the call detail, and maps the data block to a tag value set, col. 7, lines 11-12) the detail data input at said data input section into a unified data format (col. 7, lines 1-29);

a data collection and journalizing section (i.e. rating engine 30, Fig. 1) collating said detail database with said master data stored in said master database and creating journal data (col. 8, lines 9-48);

said data format conversion section (i.e. translates the data block, e.g. the call detail, and maps the data block to a tag value set, col. 7, lines 11-12) that converts said

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detail data input at said detail data input section into said unified data format includes at least a transfer key (i.e. telephone number, col. 7, line 56), an amount for each transfer key (i.e. billing telephone number, col. 47, line 65), and identification data showing a kind of data (i.e. usage types, col. 8, line 43) that was classified according to journalizing by said data collation and journalizing section (col. 7, lines 1-62, col. 8, lines 29-48);

a journal database (i.e. event depository 130, Fig. 1) for storing said journal data created at said data collation and journalizing section (col. 3, lines 6-33).

and wherein said journalizing section created multiple kinds of journal data (i.e. toll calls, international calls, operator service calls, col. 8, lines 40-42) according to the contents of processing for the expenditure management, while said master database stores multiple kinds of master data (i.e. a usage type classifies the usage event upon which the rating engine 30 will rate, col. 8, lines 39-40) depending in said multiple kinds of journal data created by said data collation and journalizing section (col. 8, lines 29-48).

Dimino does not specifically teach a pre-journalizing details database for storing said detail data input at said data input section, wherein said pre-journalizing details database stores the detail data converted in said data format conversion section said data collection. However, Albal teaches this limitation at col. 7, line 42 (i.e. Caller Detail Records).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references because Albal's suggestions of a pre-journalizing details database for storing said detail data input at said data input section, wherein said pre-journalizing details database stores the detail data converted in said data

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format conversion section said data collection would have allowed Dimino's users to track the subscriber's usage of the telecommunication services.

As per claim 14, Dimino teaches a recording medium storing a program readable by input means of a computer and causing the computer to execute the processing, the processing comprising:

processing for acquiring detail data about rates (i.e. a call detail record, Fig. 1A, col. 7, lines 3-4);

processing said acquired detail data for converting (i.e. translates the data block, e.g. the call detail, and maps the data block to a tag value set, col. 7, lines 11-12) it into a unified data format (col. 7, lines 1-62, col. 8, lines 29-48),

after processing for acquiring detail data, further processing for classifying the acquired detail data into: data for each of one or more transfer keys (i.e. billing telephone number, col. 47, line 65),

processing for acquiring a plurality of master data (i.e. toll calls, international calls, operator service calls, col. 8, lines 40-42) prepared according to contents of journalizing, wherein the master data is used for journalizing on the basis of collation with said detail data (col. 47, line 62 to col. 48, line 29, col. 8, lines 29-48), and

processing for collating said detail data with said master data and creating multiple kinds of journal data (i.e. toll calls, international calls, operator service calls, col. 8, lines 40-42) according to contents of processing in the expenditure management (col. 7, lines 1-62, col. 8, lines 29-48).

Dimino does not expressly teach “data about amount of main body that does not include consumption tax, and data about total consumption tax”. However, Albal teaches this limitation at Fig. 5 (i.e. table 124 represents the amount not including consumption tax, table 127 represents the amount including consumption tax).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references because Albal’s suggestions of a pre-journalizing details database for storing said detail data input at said data input section, wherein said pre-journalizing details database stores the detail data converted in said data format conversion section said data collection would have enabled Dimino’s users to represent the bill information which allows the subscriber to more easily identify various charges on the subscriber bill.

As per claim 17, Dimino teaches computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing the expenditure management system for managing expenditure for an automatic transfer service of rates (i.e. rate providers, usage type, cases, calendars, rate groups, rate tables ..., col. 29, lines 10-19), the computer readable program code means in said computer program product comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the function of claim 1 (col. 8, lines 29-48).

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Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments regarding there is no basis to combine Sakamoto and Davis with respect to claims 4-8, 11-13, 16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Miranda Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-4112. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene, can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax number to this Art Unit is 571-273-8300.


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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Miranda Le
July 07, 2005



GRETA ROBINSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER